



Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Member for Murchison

Our ref: 03/10/120

21 May, 2020

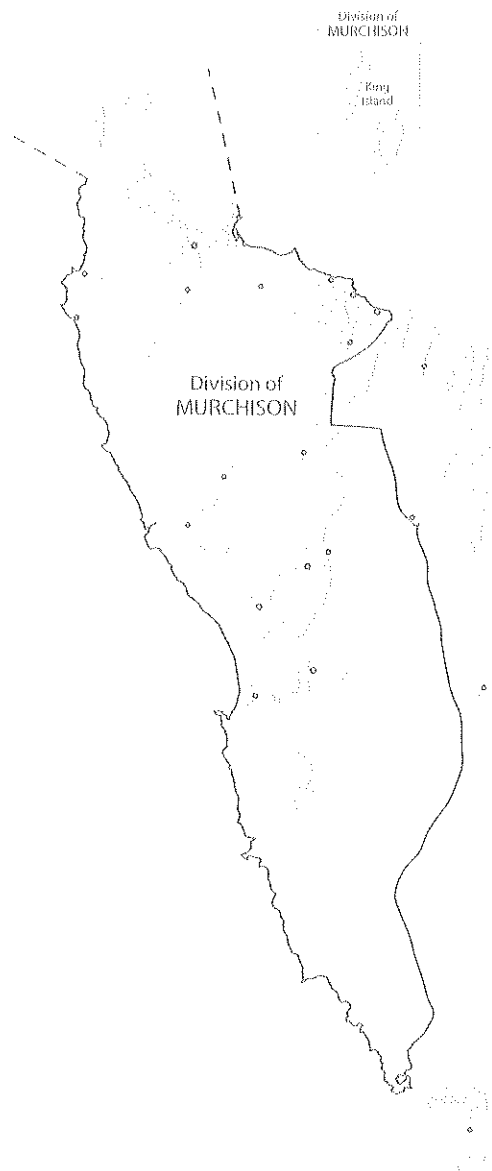
Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to express my disappointment in your recent rejection of an independent tribunal's findings recommending that a Victoria Cross be awarded to Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean for his outstanding bravery during a Japanese attack on December 1, 1942.

Constituents in my electorate of Murchison in North-West Tasmania were very disappointed to hear that you would ignore a unanimous decision of an independent panel, who found that Teddy Sheena should be honoured with a posthumous VC.

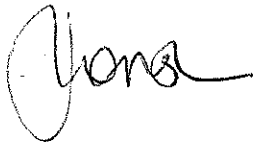
I acknowledge there may well be many other service men and women who displayed extraordinary bravery during wars and conflict that Australia has been involved in. Many of these extraordinary displays of bravery were never reported for many reasons, including the fact that those who witnessed such bravery also did not live to report it. This circumstance would obviously be much more likely in situations such as we saw Teddy Sheean display such courage. This is not a reason to deny the consideration and awarding of an award posthumously to Teddy or others who may have not yet been identified as worthy of such recognition.



I also note that my constituent and Federal colleague, also a member of your Government, Braddon MHR Gavin Pearce voiced his disappointment at the decision, and expressed in local media that he would "fight tooth and nail to protect his legend". Protecting Teddy's legend must go further that the naming of a submarine after him and 'walk' in his home town, both measures of respect. The Independent Tribunal recognised this and their decision should be respected and honoured.

This is a matter of significant concern to many of my constituents and Tasmanians generally. I share the view of most Tasmanians that this decision should be re-considered and ask that you review this immediate and important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HonR', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning and a trailing flourish.

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MURCHISON